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( Washington, D.C.) – President George Bush today signed into law legislation backed by Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-03) that includes a landmark expansion of the GI Bill of Rights.

**“Today after meeting with the brave troops serving in , we thanked our veterans by giving them the chance to attend college and succeed when they come home,”** said Carnahan. **“Th**  
**e new GI Bill is a significant step forward in our effort to honor the men and women who courageously serve our nation each and every day.”**

More than 32,712 from Missouri have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan . Unfortunately, current benefits pay only about 70 percent of a public college education and 30 percent of a private college education for these veterans when they return home. The expanded GI Bill will restore full, four-year college scholarships to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to help make them part of an economic recovery like the veterans of World War II. The legislation will also allow veterans to transfer those benefits to family members.

During the past two days, Carnahan met with troops serving in on an official House Foreign Affairs Middle East and South Asia

Subcommittee trip to the region.